



RCAGCM(52)/7

RCARO Director's Report on the Progress of the 2023 Work Plan

Pill Hwan Park

Director
RCA Regional Office



Recommendations to the RCA NRs



- (Recommendation 1) NRs are recommended to take note of the progress made by the RCARO on its work plan for 2023.
- (Recommendation 2) NRs are recommended to endorse the remaining activities planned for the rest of the year.
- (Recommendation 3) NRs are requested to review the Handbook and provide their comments within 2 weeks.

1. Taking on the Role of a Think-tank for the RCA

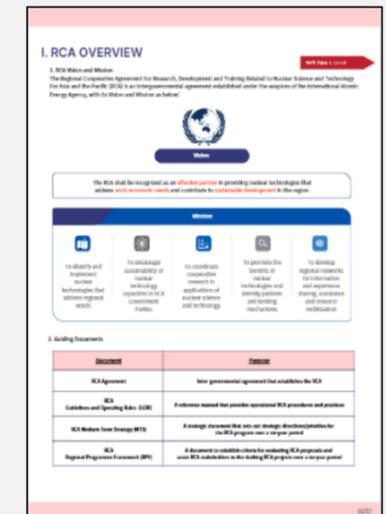
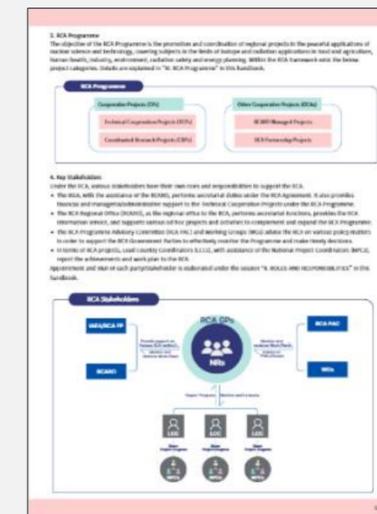
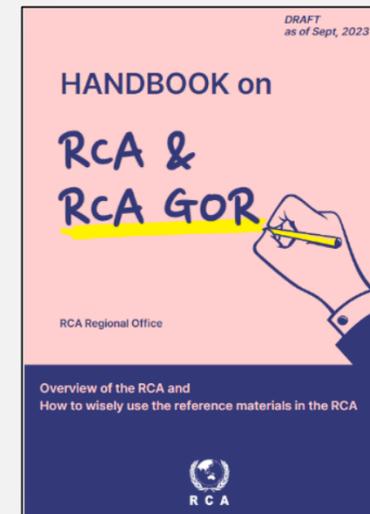


- According to its vision and strategy, in Feb. 2023, RCARO created the “**Policy & Information Centre**” within its organization to provide better and more effective support to the RCA.
 - Operating with 5 high-caliber staffs incl. **three PhD. holders and two nuclear experts**; and the full financial support from the government of Korea.
- As always, RCARO assisted the IAEA and the RCA Chair in preparing NR meetings and participated in the RCA Chairs’ Committee meetings in March and July.
 - RCARO will try our continuing efforts for providing better support to the key RCA stakeholders including the GPs, WGs/Committees, RCA Chair and Chairs’ Committee.
- RCARO is planning to conduct a **comprehensive survey on the RCA** to identify ideas, needs and priorities of the GPs, covering overall RCA management and operational matters, R&D cooperative network, and RCA promotion and partnerships.
- RCARO is considering to undertake a **policy study on strategic expansion of partnerships** and develop detail profiles of potential partners including int’l, regional and national orgs.

1. Taking on the Role of a Think-tank for the RCA

➤ Development of a Handbook on RCA and RCA GOR

- The 45th RCA NRM recommended the RCARO consider holding an introductory workshop and developing a comprehensive booklet for the RCA NRs to familiarize them with their R&R.
- Accordingly, RCARO developed a draft **handy guidebook on RCA and RCA GOR** for providing necessary information on the RCA as a whole and on the specifics of key RCA procedures.



- Also, RCARO plans to hold a workshop for the RCA NRs in 2024 and provide them with a briefing on the overall RCA and the procedures of the RCA Program.

2. Enhancing Partnerships with Regional/Int'l Organizations



2.1. RCA-US DOE Project on e-Beam technology

- As approved by the 45th RCA NRM, RCARO developed the concept proposal on the new partnership project with the US DOE as a fast-track process; and the final **project design was endorsed by the RCA NRs** via electronic communications in Sept. 2023.

RCA-DOE (ORS/NNSA*) Partnership Project on E-Beam Technology and its Applications

- Project title: Supporting the Adoption of E-Beam Technology and its Applications in Areas of Food and Agriculture, Industry, Human Health and Environment Treatment
- Countries: RCA GPs in Asia-Pacific Region (Upon submission of Project Participation Form)
- Project duration: Five Years (2024-2028) (Kick-off meeting planned in Dec. 2023, Thailand)
- Estimated total budget: US\$2,403,265 (NNSA ORS: \$2,059,265, RCARO: \$344,000)
- Activities: meetings, workshops, regional training courses, building Data-base, expert missions, etc.

* Office of Radiological Security/National Nuclear Security Administration

2.2 RCARO-ASEANTOM* Project on radiation monitoring and dose assessment

- Organized the online training course on dosimetry and radiation monitoring on 15-24 Feb. 2023 via the RCA E-CAMPUS (48 participants from 6 GPs); and conducted the RTC on **Enhancing technical capabilities on radioactivity measurements** on 21-24 Aug., Korea (14 participants from 6 GPs).

* ASEANTOM: ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy

2. Enhancing Partnerships with Regional/Int'l Organizations



2.2 Partnership with ASEANTOM (continued)

- In cooperation with KRISS*, RCARO developed **three visual manuals and two handbooks** on operating procedures for radioactivity measurement and dose assessment.

* KRISS: Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science



2.3 Organization of a Joint Workshop with the ARCCNM

- In collaboration with ARCCNM*, a **regional training workshop on nuclear medicine** will be organized in Nov., Korea, aiming to provide an opportunity for young professionals to present selected papers and receive training on the latest advances in nuclear medicine.

*Asia Regional Cooperative Council for Nuclear Medicine

2.4 Participation in the FNCA Coordinators Meeting

- Representing the RCA, RCARO participated in the **23rd FNCA Coordinators Meeting** on 21 June, and delivered a presentation on RCA activities and progress on RCA-FNCA cooperative activities.
- The meeting agreed that the cooperation with the RCA should be encouraged for a synergy and more wide experience sharing among RCA and FNCA.

3. Expanding Support for the Benefit of the GPs



3.1 RAS9092 (EPR Capacity of Cat. II and III Facilities*, 2020-2024)

- The **mid-term review meeting** was held in Malaysia on 13-17 Feb. 2023 to review the progress of the project, and discuss follow-up and future activities.
- The meeting was attended by LCC, NPCs and IAEA experts and noted that the project has been well in progress despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

*strengthening the capacity to respond to radiological emergencies of category II and III facilities in the Asia Pacific region

3.2 RCARO managed project: RCARP02 (Air pollution*, 2011-2023)

- Organized the **Research Coordination Meeting and Technical Workshop** on 17-19 May 2023, Indonesia, aiming to review the project progress and discuss the work plan for 2023.
- RCARO plans to conduct an impact analysis in Q4 2023 and prepare a **final achievement report of the project** by integrating major research findings and outputs at national/regional level.

*Air Quality and Environmental Impact Assessment of Industrial Activities in the Region

- Reflecting lessons learned from this project and continued needs of the GPs, RCARO will launch **the process for developing a new RP** subject to the budget availability in 2024.

3. Expanding Support for the Benefit of the GPs



3.3 RCARO managed project: RCARP03 (Radiotherapy*, 2022-2024)

- Organized the **Research Coordination Meeting in conjunction with a technical workshop** from 22-24 May 2023, Indonesia, aiming to review the project progress and discuss the work plan for 2023-2024.

*Closing the Gap in Access to Radiotherapy in RCA Government Parties

3.4 Initiation of a new R&D program

- RCARO submitted a budget proposal to the Korean government in 2022 and secured funding to further expand **the collaborative R&D with the RCA member countries**.
- Two cooperative R&D projects will be launched according to the relevant laws and procedures right after completing the review of the Korean Research Foundation as follows:
 - ✓ Project1: Development of an AI-based Automatic Detection Program and Critical Technology Elements for Portable X-ray Diagnostic Devices
 - ✓ Project2: Collaborative Research and Technical Support for Water Purification Using E-beam Technology

4. Provision of Information Service and RCA Promotion

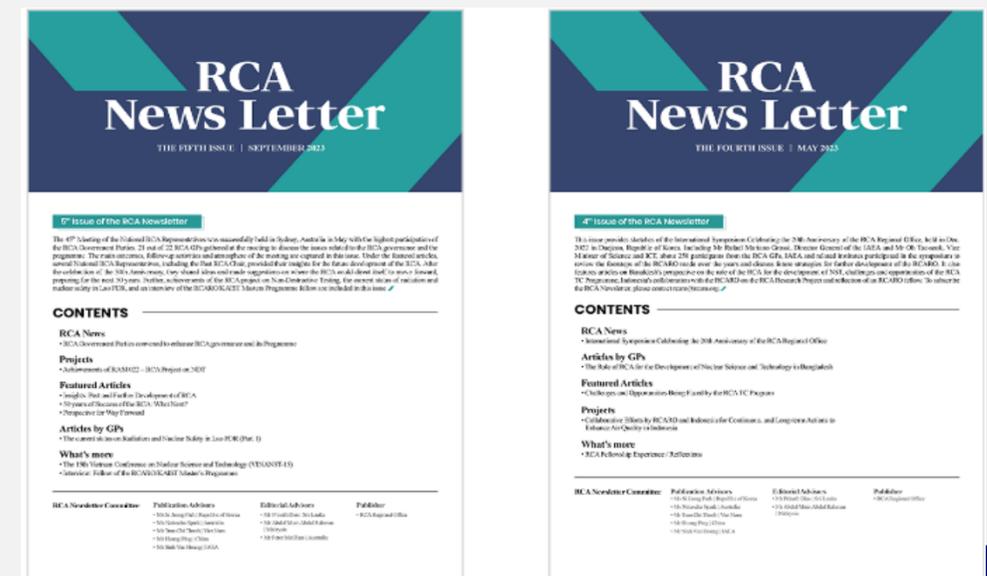


4.1. Providing RCA information through the Integrated Information System

- RCARO continued its efforts to collect and update information and documents on the RCA meetings, projects and NS&T related trends and news to provide quality information service to the RCA.
- In close consultation with the IAEA, PAC and LCCs/NPCs, RCARO will devote **our all efforts to thoroughly collect all information and documents** related to the RCA program.
- Also, in order to facilitate **the Data-Hub function**, RCARO plans to collect information and data on NS&T in the RCA region, which is expected to be a valuable resource platform for developing strategies and policies for the RCA as well as designing future projects.

4.2. Publication of Newsletters

- RCARO published the **4th and 5th issues of the RCA Newsletter**, in May and Sept. 2023 respectively.
- In cooperation with the Editorial Advisors and the RCARO SAC, the RCARO will continue to publish the **6th issue in Q4 2023**.



4. Provision of Information Service and RCA Promotion



4.3. Participation in Regional/International events

- RCARO participated in the **15th Vietnam Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology (VINANST-15)** held on 16-18 Aug. 2023, and showcased posters on the RCA and its 50 years' achievements at the event.
- Also, RCARO participated in various domestic events in Korea to increase its visibility including Korea Nuclear Society Conference held in May.



4.4. Reformation of the Framework for Promotional Activities

- For **more systematic and effective promotion of the RCA** within and outside the region, RCARO plans to conduct a comprehensive review of the effectiveness and impact of various promotional activities.
- Based on the review and analysis, RCARO will develop **an appropriate mechanism for effective promotion of the RCA** and organize a workshop to discuss innovative promotional ways and strategies early next year.



5. Assisting the GPs in Human Resource Development



5.1. Capacity Building through the Korean Institutes/Universities

➤ Support for the Master's Degree Programs

- RCARO newly supported one student (SRL) for KAIST* course and five students (MON, THA, INS (2), PHI) for KINGS course; and two students from KINGS** completed a summer internship at the RCARO.

*Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology **KEPCO International Graduate School

- The RCARO launched a **new Master's degree and PhD. scholarship program** in cooperation with the UST* and made official application notice for the program commencing from the 2024 spring semester; and **around ten students will benefit** from the course, subject to the budget availability.

*University of Science & Technology

➤ Capacity building activities on radiation technology

- RCARO hosted the **Workshop on Enhancing Capability for Developing, Using and Maintaining Radiation Equipment**, on 7-9 March 2023, inviting 12 participants from 6 countries to provide knowledge and know-how on the use and maintenance of various radiation equipment and facilities.
- Based on the results and discussions during the workshop, RCARO conducted **two expert missions for the Philippines (8-12 May) and Thailand (10-13 July)** to support on-site consultations and national workshops.

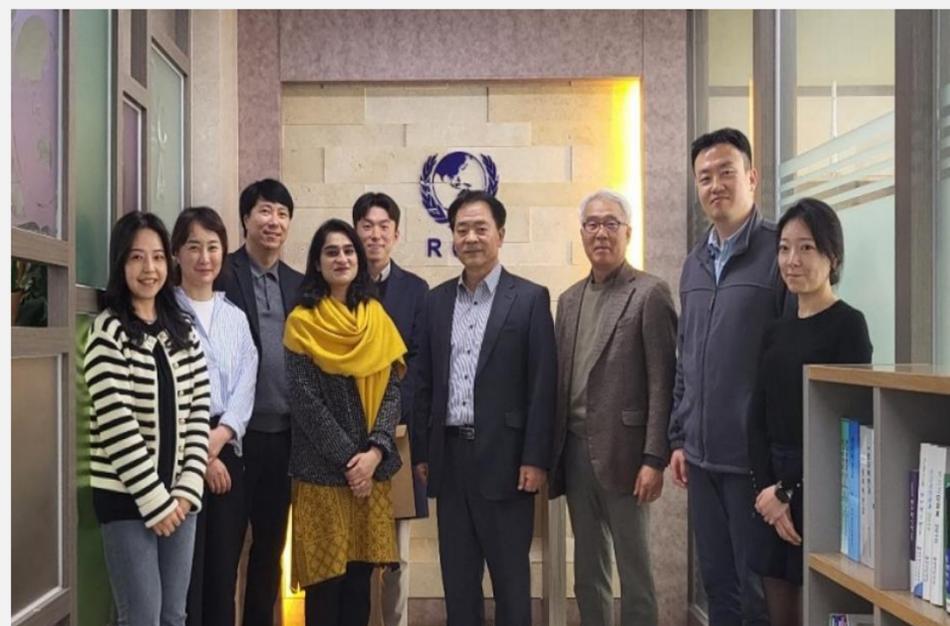
5. Assisting the GPs in human resource development

5.2. Conducting online training through the RCA E-CAMPUS

- RCARO is considering to **reform the RCA E-CAMPUS** to provide a comprehensive course on radiation technology and its applications, combining with scientific visits/on-site training course to provide a wide range of learning opportunities for the RCA professionals.

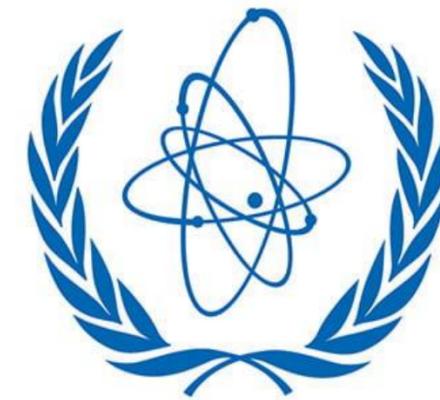
5.3. RCARO Fellowship Program

- RCARO restarted the RCARO Fellowship Program right after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and invited **three fellows from Cambodia, Pakistan, and Laos** for two months respectively from Nov. 2022 to Aug. 2023, working for RCARO in implementing various RCARO cooperative activities.





Thank You!



IAEA



RCA